

Amendments To The Specification:

Please insert the following headings in the specification for compliance with the arrangement of the application requirements of 37 CFR 1.77(b):

1. "Field of Invention" on page 1, line 2.
2. "Background" on page 1, line 6.
3. "Summary" on page 3, line 30.
4. "Brief Description of the Drawings" on page 7, line 6.
5. "Detailed Description" on page 7, line 16.

Additionally, please replace the following specification paragraphs:

- 1. Beginning at page 3, line 33 to page 4, line 9 with the following:**

According to a first aspect of the invention, there is provides a method of distributing software over a communication network including the steps of:

- (a) making the software available on a file server attached to the network;
- (b) providing and executing an installation application on a user's computer attached to the network;
- (c) monitoring file requests made by the installation application;
- (d) identifying file requests which relate to files which are not present on the user's computer;
- (e) converting file requests into file download requests;
- ~~(e)~~(f) downloading the identified files from the file server;
- ~~(f)~~(g) storing the downloaded files in storage media on the user's computer; and
- ~~(g)~~(h) directing the file requests for the identified files, and any future file requests for those files, to the downloaded versions of those files.

2. Beginning at page 5, line 12 to 26 with the following:

According to a second aspect of the invention, there is provided a method of distributing software over a communication network including the steps of:

- (a) providing on the user's computer a version of the software which does not include all the files necessary for complete operation of the software;
- (b) making the missing files available on a file server attached to the network;
- (c) executing the software on the user's computer;
- (d) monitoring file requests made by the software;
- (e) identifying file requests which relate to files which are not present on the user's computer;
- (f) converting file requests into file download requests;
- ~~(f)~~(g) downloading the identified files from the file server and storing them in volatile or non-volatile storage media on the user's computer;
- ~~(g)~~(h) directing the file requests for the identified files to the downloaded versions of those files; and
- ~~(h)~~(i) deleting one or more of the downloaded files from the user's computer.

3. Beginning at page 5, line 29 to 34 with the following:

The step of deleting one or more of the downloaded files may be done at any suitable time, including:

- (i) as the files are closed by the software;
- (ii) when execution of the software terminates;
- (iii) after a pre-determined time or number of days has elapsed; and/or
- ~~(iii)~~ (iv) after the software has been executed a pre-determined number of times.

4. Beginning at page 6, line 1 to 4 with the following:

The method of this aspect of the invention may further include the steps of:

- ~~(i)~~ (j) monitoring the number of times that files are requested and/or the particular files requested by the user's computer from the server; and
- ~~(j)~~ (k) requiring the owner of the user's computer to make payments based on the number of times that files are requested and/or the particular files requested.

5. Beginning at page 6, line 11 to 26 with the following:

According to a first aspect of the invention, there is provides a method of distributing software over a communication network including the steps of:

- (a) making the upgrade software available on a file server attached to the network;
- (b) ascertaining that the software on the user's computer is an older version than the upgrade software;
- (c) executing the software on the user's computer and monitoring file requests made by the software;
- (d) identifying the requests which relate to files which have been upgraded in the upgrade software;
- (e) converting file requests onto file download requests;
- ~~(e)~~ (f) downloading the identified files from the file server;
- ~~(f)~~ (g) storing the downloaded files in storage media on the user's computer; and
- ~~(g)~~ (h) directing the file requests for the identified files, and any future file requests for those files, to the downloaded versions of those files.

6. Beginning at page 7, line 6 to 15 with the following:

The invention will hereinafter be described in greater detail by reference to the attached drawings which show an example form of the invention. It is to be understood that the particularity of those drawings does not supersede the generality of the preceding description of the invention.

Figure 1 is a block diagram showing schematically the software components in a conventional networking system.

Figure 2 is a block diagram showing schematically the software components in a networking system according to the present invention.

Figure 2a is a flow chart showing the method of software distribution, execution and upgrading according to the present invention.

Figure 3 is a schematic diagram of the components in a preferred embodiment of the present invention.

7. Beginning at page 7, line 33 to page 8 line 11 with the following:

Referring now to ~~Figure~~ Figures 2 and 2a, the present invention enables software to be installed and run on a host machine, without requiring the underlying files to be physically available on any of the local storage drivers. Instead, every file request from the software is trapped by an installable monitor, which dynamically downloads the target file from a remote file server to a local storage medium if the file has not already been downloaded. The installer monitor thereafter directs the native file system to operate on the downloaded file in order to satisfy the file request. Even requests for a file at an absolute path on a specific drive (e.g. the CD-ROM drive) are redirected to the downloaded file, which is likely to reside at a different path on a different drive. The downloaded file can optionally be removed when the software closes the file, or when the software terminates. Consequently, a host machine can run application software without having a physical medium containing all the underlying files.